



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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**District Man Sentenced to 40 years in Prison for
Premeditated Murder of Off-Duty D.C. Fireman**

Washington - The Honorable Frederick J. Weisberg sentenced Eugene Pugh, a 40-year-old District of Columbia Man, to a total of 40 years in prison for the 2007 murder of off-duty District of Columbia fireman Michael Holmone, Acting United States Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today. On May 14, 2009, a Superior Court jury found Pugh, of the 3600 block of Jay Street, NE, Washington, D.C., guilty of first degree premeditated murder while armed and a related weapons offenses.

The government's evidence at trial showed that on May 11, 2007, Michael Holmone was in the 3500 block of Jay Street, NE, in what is known as the Paradise/Mayfair neighborhood. Holmone grew up in the neighborhood and was back visiting friends. At around 9:00 p.m., Holmone was outside enjoying the nice weather and watching some of his friends play cards, when Eugene Pugh walked up and shot him three times, twice in the back and once in the hip, and then ran away. One of the bullets ripped through Michael Holmone's heart. Life saving efforts performed at the scene and at Prince George's County Hospital Center failed, and Michael Holmone was pronounced dead at 9:45 p.m.

Eugene Pugh was arrested six days later, on May 17, 2007. While he was incarcerated at the D.C. Jail pending trial, Pugh confessed his role in the murder to another inmate and also threatened

to have people kill a person he believed to be a government witness. The inmate informed a D.C. Superior Court judge, his lawyer, and then the U.S. Attorney's Office about the defendant's confession and his threats against the potential government witness.

In announcing today's sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips commended a number of Metropolitan Police Department officers and detectives for their excellent work on the case: lead Detective Brian Kasul, Detectives Dan Lewis, Earl Delauder, Daniel Whalen, Manuel Gaffney, Milton Norris, Brian Waid, William Xanten, Gail Brown, Brian Wise, Dwayne Corbett, and Andrea Latson, Sergeant Daniel Wagner, Officers Duncan Bedlion, Johnnie Barnes, Dwayne Mitchell, Natasha Pettus, Amber Chesla, Grant Greenwalt, David Murray, Jeffrey McLaughlin, Jarlath Cady, William Dempster, and Mark Lakomec, and Crime Scene Technicians Moctema Stevens, Toni Nwani and Natasha Pettus. He also praised the work of Paralegals Lynette Briggs and Marian Russell, Victim/Witness Security Specialist Maretta ("Laverne") Forrest, Victim/Witness Advocate Marcia Rinker, and Litigation Services Specialist Thomas ("Ron") Royal. Finally, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips praised the work of Assistant United States Attorneys David Gorman and Michelle Jackson, who investigated the case, and Assistant United States Attorney Alessio Evangelista, who indicted and tried the case.

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